

St Michael's Parish, Blackrock, Cork

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24/08/2025 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

WEEKLY MASS LEAFLET UPDATES: Email to : parish@stmichaelsblackrock.ie



BAPTISMS: Please contact the parish office. MARRIAGES: Minimum 3 months notice required by Church and State. Pre-marriage course required.

Mass Times Sundays: 9 am & 11 am Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm Tuesday & Friday: 9.30 am Baptisms are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 4pm. Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP



Recently Deceased Michael Spillane. Meadowgrove. Rest in Peace



Baptism Jude Sean Middleton. Ailbhe Mary Howick. Welcome to the Christian Family.



BACK TO SCHOOL Primary schools will re-open in the coming days. This year we have been blessed with beautiful summer days and that remains the case as the children return. This is a special time for many families as children walk into junior infants for the first time and the great school adventure begins. There is also a sense of excitement and new beginnings for school communities as the new school year unfolds.



In our parish and parishes we look forward to school involvement and especially in preparation for the sacraments in 2026. Here in Blackrock Parish we will arrange the Do This in memory programme and also involve the Confirmation candidates. We are very grateful to our schools as they support families and the parish in the faith formation of the children. These are really important things and highly valued. May the Lord bless the children, their families, their school communities and our parish.

Family of Parishes – we will continue to work together with Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon Parishes in this new pastoral year. A diocesan meeting for parish representatives will take place on Sunday 14th September and our parishes will be represented.

Welcome – to new families especially those newly arrived in Ireland to Blackrock Parish. We have seen an increase in families this year and look forward to the new pastoral year to build and develop our parish and faith community.

Congratulations to all involved in Blackrock Village Festival this weekend. The parish was delighted to welcome the Cork Light Orchestra for the opening concert last Friday evening. It was a real local celebration and event.

Fr. Michael 085 8735905 frmichael@corkandross.org

A brief introduction on Sunday's readings First reading Isaiah 66:18-21 The in-gathering is a very appealing topic. Our first reading speaks of God gathering the Israel and the nations, so that together they might worship the same Lord. Second reading Hebrews 12:5-7 What do we do with difficult experiences? We can ignore them or really try to make us of them, as suggested by this reading from Hebrews. Gospel Luke 13:22-30 Jesus' words and mission were not at all salways consoling: a "comfortable" Gospel is really a contradiction in terms and from time to time a shake-up is good for us.

Commentary The passage is a powerful reminder that salvation is not a passive state but an active, lifelong pursuit. Bible scholars say that Jesus's teachings in this passage are not about earning salvation through works, but about the necessity of a transformed heart and a life that reflects that transformation. The "narrow door" symbolizes the exclusive nature of the path to salvation through Jesus Christ, emphasizing that true discipleship involves more than just outward appearances or religious rituals. The parable also serves as a warning against complacency and self-deception, urging individuals to examine their hearts and lives to ensure they are genuinely aligned with God's will. The emphasis on weeping and gnashing of teeth serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of rejecting God's offer of salvation.

Ballinlough Men's Retirement Club meets every Wednesday afternoon from 2 – 4pm resuming on Wed. 3rd September in Ballinlough Community Centre. Members enjoy an afternoon of short mat bowls (bowls supplied by the club) in an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie. New members welcome. Contact: 085 1615360.

VOCATIONS AFTERNOON with the Poor Clare Sisters, Cork Saturday September 27th 2 - 4 pm If you are considering a religious vocation, feel free to contact us anytime: vocationspoorclarescork@gmail.com or write to us: Poor Clare Monastery, College Road, Cork. www.poorclarescork.ie

Study Theology Online, is this for you? The Priory Institute provides online Theology courses to degree level. Attend Saturday lectures in Tallaght or from the comfort of your own home. Register now to begin on 20 September. Find out more on our website, prioryinstitute.com

BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL Fr. Michael has generously offered the poor box near the exit as a collection point for SVP. If you wish to contribute any time, it would be appreciated.

Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart Church, Western Road, Cork. Sunday August 31st to Monday 8th Sept 2025 daily 10am & 8pm. Fr. Brendan O'Rourke C.S.S.R & Fr. Dan Baragry C.S.S.R. Theme: Following in the footsteps of Mary.

The Bible and what is happening in Gaza It is hard not to overstate what is happening in Gaza: the destruction of the territory, the starvation and attempted genocide of the people. All this is done in the name of biblically inspired "nationalism". As such, it has made many people very, very uncomfortable with overt nationalist passages in the readings from the Bible. This is so much the case that an Israeli Jesuit of Jewish background, David Neuhaus, has written a short article with a trenchant title: "Reading the Bible after the Destruction of Gaza." In the words of Neuhaus: This causes the Bible to be frowned upon by those who fight for freedom, equality, and fraternity.

To people perhaps not so familiar with the Bible, today's first reading from Isaiah must come as something of a surprise. It offers a vision of all nations coming to worship the one, true God. The reading comes from the last part of Isaiah, usually called Third Isaiah, written after the return from the great Exile in Babylon. In spite of that setting, the reading breathes a broader, more universal air.

This slightly exotic text is a reminder that in the Bible there are not one but two narratives of salvation. The first one, perhaps more familiar, is unapologetically nationalist, often harshly expressed. It is the story of the ancient Israelites, later the Jewish people. The second one, perhaps less apparent, offers a different story, the story of all the nations and their inclusion in God's plan of salvation.

GREGORIAN CHANT for beginners Open to choral singers, conductors, music students and anyone with an interest in the history and practice of Gregorian chant and related repertoires. END OF SUMMER COURSE 6-8pm, Wed 27 August - Friday 29 August 2025 Location: MTU Cork School of Music Union Quay, Cork. Course fee: €40 Please register at https://pay.csm.cit.ie Use the following key/invoice codes :Student Key: 2025

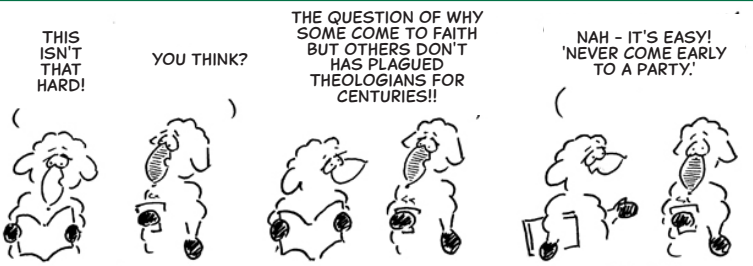
Reflections 1. The question put to Jesus is one that many still ask: "Will many be saved?" In his answer Jesus is not concerned about numbers but warns his listeners about complacency. Just as his listeners could not regard the mere fact of being Jews as sufficient for salvation, neither can we regard being Christians as enough. That entitlement will come from our acceptance of Jesus. For any relationship to be alive – either with god or with another human person – the real question is "Is my heart in this relationship?" What does your experience tell you of this? 2. "Strive to enter by the narrow door". Jesus himself is on his journey to Jerusalem, purposeful and determined. True followers of him will also be purposeful and determined. That is true in any journey, career, or relationship if there is to be growth or progress. What it is like for you when you fail to do this? What is it like for you when the effort is there?

PRAYER To the banquet of your kingdom, O God of the nations, you have invited people of every race and tongue. May all who are called to a place at your table come, by the narrow way, to the unending feast of life.

Thought for the day For a long time, Western Christianity was marked by a deep pessimism. Most were surely going to hell! In sum, we seem to have moved from clarity and pessimism to agnosticism and optimism. A necessary rebalancing, of course, but with the attendant risk of complacency, convinced as we are, and ought to be, of God's boundless mercy, love and compassion. These gifts, on the other hand, should not trigger a kind of lazy confidence but should invite even greater engagement, commitment and costly discipleship. God desires the whole person, all that I am.

Prayer God of costly love, help us to take up the path of discipleship and respond to your Son's call by giving our whole selves to you and the Gospel. Amen

K O'Mahony OSA



"Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able."

Cork Alzheimers Café a safe place for people with Alzheimers and other dementias, their carers, family and friends along with social and health professionals to meet. Last Friday of each month 11- 12.30 pm in St Finbarrs Hospital, Douglas Road. Light refreshments provided free of charge. All welcome. Friday - 29th August - Next Meeting Chair Yoga



PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS There are 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is 2017

Mass cards are available in the sacristy after every mass both at weekend and weekdays.